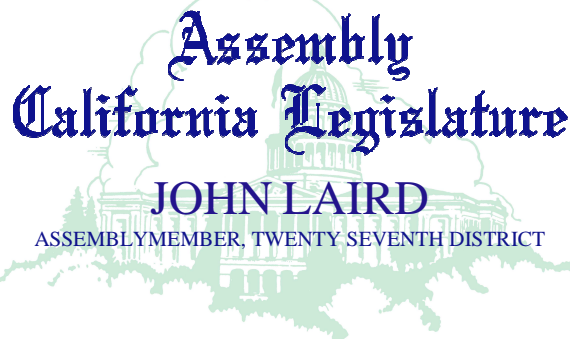


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LABOR & EMPLOYMENT  
NATURAL RESOURCES

September 29, 2008

Secretary Ed Schafer  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Re: Light Brown Apple Moth Reclassification Petition Submitted by Daniel  
Harder PhD, Ken Kimes, Roy Upton and Lynette Casper

Dear Secretary Schafer:

Over a year ago my office was first notified of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) program to aerially spray the Monterey County portion of my district with a pheromone-based pesticide in an attempt to eradicate the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM).

The breadth of concerns and doubts about the LBAM program is especially dramatic when you consider it all began with a relatively small group of Monterey Peninsula residents who sought scientific evidence that aerially spraying micro-encapsulated pheromones would eradicate LBAM—and proof that it is safe for people and the environment, both in the short- and long-term.

Today, dozens of local, state and federal officials, several University of California scientists and countless other Californians not only have serious questions about the efficacy and safety of the LBAM program, they challenge the scientific underpinnings as well. I share their concern that multi-million dollar decisions are possibly being made based on outdated and/or incomplete scientific and monitoring data, and that these decisions could be placing Californians, the environment and agriculture at risk.

From the outset, I have called for an open public process and third-party review based on sound science. The LBAM experience in California has severely strained USDA's and CDFA's credibility in the state and brought many questions to the forefront about how we deal with invasive species. Future projects in populated areas will now face intense scrutiny. So it is imperative USDA and CDFA are able to demonstrate their actions are necessary and appropriate, are informed by up-to-date science and the short- and long-term health effects are known, especially for sensitive populations.

I therefore fully support the above noted request for a formal assessment of LBAM's classification that includes full public participation and third-party review.

Sincerely,



**JOHN LAIRD**, Assemblymember  
27th District

JL:cf

Cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
Representative Jackie Speier  
Representative Sam Farr  
Representative Barbara Lee  
Representative Lynn Woosley  
State Senator Jeff Denham  
State Senator Abel Maldonado  
State Senator Carole Migden  
State Senator Joe Simitian  
Assemblymember Anna Caballero  
Assemblymember Loni Hancock  
Assemblymember Jared Huffman  
Assemblymember Mark Leno  
Assemblymember Sandré Swanson  
Cindy Smith, Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
AG Kawamura, California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Helene Wright, United States Department of Agriculture  
Monterey County Board of Supervisors  
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors  
Petitioners: Daniel Harder PhD, Ken Kimes, Roy Upton and Lynette Casper  
Ken Corbishley, Agricultural Commissioner, Santa Cruz County  
Eric Lauritzen, Agricultural Commissioner, Monterey County  
Bob Perkins, Monterey County Farm Bureau  
Dave Cavanaugh, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau